



12 Ways to Celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Polio Vaccine

1. Send an op-ed article to your local paper talking about the historical significance of the polio vaccine and the need for today's children to be fully immunized.
2. Conduct a local press conference and feature individuals who were a) children during the 1950s and remember polio scares, b) health care staff who treated polio cases or participated in the first immunization efforts, and c) polio survivors.
3. Issue a press release for local media.
4. The announcement of a polio vaccine 50 years ago caused bells to ring in churches throughout the country. Work with local churches in your community to ring the bells once again at 10:20 a.m. (EST), the actual time of the announcement.
5. Contact your local Rotary and offer to speak about polio and the importance of immunizations at a local Rotary meeting. Rotary International has been a driving force in polio eradication efforts worldwide.
6. Provide information to local schools about the polio anniversary, including information about the year-long Smithsonian Institute National Museum of American History's exhibit "Whatever Happened to Polio" which can be accessed from the Smithsonian's website at <http://americanhistory.si.edu/exhibitions/exhibition.cfm?key=38&exkey=352>.
7. Celebrate National Infant Immunization Week (April 24 -30) and tie the polio vaccine anniversary into NIIW messages.
8. Post information about polio and the polio vaccine anniversary on your website. Information and polio links can be found at www.cdc.gov/nip/events/polio-vacc-50th/.
9. Develop a public service announcement for the month of April tying the polio vaccine anniversary into the need for children today to be fully immunized.
10. Have state and local political leaders issue a proclamation recognizing the importance of the polio vaccine.
11. Download and reproduce the polio timeline/poster at www.cdc.gov/nip/events/polio-vacc-50th/timeline.htm and distribute it to local health care providers to post in their offices.
12. Work with local businesses and schools to conduct essay contests on what the polio vaccine has meant to the health of children worldwide.